



For more information contact: Betty VanDeventer, 402.41.4537 or betty.vandeventer@nebraska.gov

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NEBRASKA WRITING SCORES CONTINUE UPWARD TREND WITH 9 OF EVERY 10 STUDENTS PROFICIENT OR BETTER

Nebraska student writing scores continued the upward trend with nine of every 10 students meeting or exceeding the state's writing standards, according to results released today by the Nebraska Department of Education.

The 2008 writing results showed that 91 percent of Nebraska 4th graders, 93 percent of 8th graders and 94 percent of the state's 11th graders are proficient or better in writing. The following table shows the continuous, steady improvement in writing skills at the grade level assessed since 2004:

Years	Grade 04	Grade 08	Grade 11
2003-2004	79.57%	82.56%	87.39%
2004-2005	82.99%	84.94%	89.52%
2005-2006	81.81%	86.08%	90.00%
2006-2007	86.15%	90.15%	91.04%
2007-2008	90.58%	92.68%	94.30%
% of Change	↑11.01%	↑10.12%	↑6.91%

% of Change: Compares the percentage of students proficient on the first state writing assessment to the current year's results.

The writing results are based on Nebraska's writing test which is a statewide test in that all 4th, 8th and 11th graders across the state take the same test, writing to the same grade-appropriate prompts. The student written responses are graded by trained educators other than the individual student's own teacher.

The results also show that groups of students continue to score higher on the state's writing standards. Here is a comparison of results for the past three years. Additional data are available on the writing report on the Nebraska Department of Education's homepage.

Years	2006			2007			2008		
Student Group	Grade 4	Grade 8	Grade 11	Grade 4	Grade 8	Grade 11	Grade 4	Grade 8	Grade 11
All Students	82%	86%	90%	86%	90%	91%	91%	93%	94%
Female	87%	93%	94%	90%	94%	94%	93%	96%	96%
Male	77%	80%	86%	82%	86%	88%	88%	89%	93%
American Indian/ Alaskan Native	74%	70%	84%	80%	77%	76%	84%	82%	90%
Asians or Pacific Islanders	84%	89%	87%	91%	93%	93%	93%	96%	92%
White, Not Hispanic	85%	88%	92%	88%	92%	93%	92%	94%	96%
Black, Not Hispanic	69%	73%	80%	78%	80%	81%	83%	86%	87%
Hispanic	73%	78%	77%	80%	82%	81%	88%	88%	89%
Students in Migrant Program	66%	72%	63%	83%	82%	66%	83%	80%	71%
Students Eligible for Free and Reduced Lunch	73%	78%	82%	80%	83%	84%	86%	88%	89%
Special Education Students	63%	60%	63%	71%	68%	67%	77%	76%	76%
English Language Learners	65%	66%	56%	76%	70%	61%	85%	79%	75%

The writing results are available for the state as well as by school district and individual school building on the Nebraska Department of Education's homepage at: www.nde.state.ne.us.